

For Immediate Release
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Mayor Promotes Gary Cavin as Director of Technology, Boyce Safford as Deputy Chief of Staff

(Columbus) Mayor Michael B. Coleman today announced the appointment of his Deputy Chief of Staff, Gary Cavin, as Columbus' Director of the Department of Technology. The Mayor also promoted Boyce Safford III, a senior policy advisor, to serve as his Deputy Chief of Staff.

"Gary Cavin serves with energy, is focused on getting results, and he's already proven that he has what it takes to continue making Technology work to build a more effective, efficient and accountable City government," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "His diverse experience runs from helping build up small businesses to managing large staffs and budgets. I am confident that he will continue to excel as we work to implement innovative programs like 311, better asset management, and work to give our employees the high tech tools they need to best serve our neighborhoods."

Cavin, 45, joined the Mayor's senior staff in January of 2002, after working for nearly a decade in the Department of Development, where he was serving as Deputy Director. Cavin has served as both Deputy Chief of Staff and Interim Director for the Department of Technology since February of 2004.

"In the past five years, we have successfully leveraged technology in City Hall to cut costs and improve neighborhood services, but there are still many challenges ahead and I'm looking forward to a new level of service in the Mayor's Cabinet," said Cavin.

Cavin grew up on Columbus' Near East Side, and he now resides on the North East Side with his wife and three children. Cavin is a graduate of Otterbein University.

Boyce Safford, 44, joined the Mayor's Policy Office in 2001, focused on driving forward neighborhood economic development deals to create jobs before being named this week as Deputy Chief of Staff.

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“Bringing residents, businesses and investors together to support innovative neighborhood development is among the hardest jobs in any city, and Boyce Safford is among the nation’s best,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “He is a master of building bridges between groups to get a job done, and I am proud that he has agreed to step up in our office to serve in a demanding new job.”

Key deals that Safford guided to improve Columbus neighborhoods include: the redevelopment of the Northland Mall site, the new jobs coming into the West Edge Business Center in Franklinton, the first steps toward redeveloping the historic King-Lincoln District. Safford also worked internally as a liaison to Columbus City Council overseeing the drafting of legislation by Departments, relationships with Council members and ensuring that the Mayor’s key agenda items continued to move forward.

“In my experience, success is always based on communication and cooperation, and that is the key to working for this Mayor as we drive forward into 2005,” said Safford. “I have loved working on neighborhood development, and will continue to guide efforts to support inward growth in historic neighborhoods that we believe can thrive once again.”

Before joining the Mayor’s team, Safford worked as a development coordinator for the Columbus Urban Growth Corporation, created by Coleman during the mid-1990s to drive neighborhood development deals. Safford was instrumental in pulling together the Four Corners Project at 11th and Cleveland that serves today as a model of urban redevelopment and has begun to erase a generation of blight in the South Linden neighborhood.

Boyce Safford is a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. He, his wife and son live on Columbus’ North East Side.